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21 December 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Jack Ticer  
Senate Armed Services Committee

SUBJECT : US-Soviet Force Comparisons

1. There is no single suitable document comparing the complete range of weapons of the USSR and its allies with the US and its allies. As you know, we cover this subject in three separate National Estimates. Even then there are a variety of measures--particularly where strategic forces are concerned. ☐

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2. The simplest measure is the number of inter-continental attack forces by type. These are shown in bar graph form with projections through 1987 under assumptions of SAL agreement or not, and of a moderate or high level of Soviet effort. Four other measures of US and Soviet strategic forces are shown in the line graphs. ☐

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3. A comparison of forces for peripheral nuclear strike is also difficult because we are uncertain which forces would in actual fact be assigned this task. The bar graph on this shows a basic set of forces and two expanded sets. We have included some text from the estimate to explain how the different numbers were reached. ☐

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4. The conventional forces count covers only the NATO Guidelines Area. US and Soviet men and equipment located outside of that area would, of course, be additional. ☐

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Associate, Congressional Support Staff

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